

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

April 24, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Tension between North Korea and USA (0:11)

Setting the Scene



(Kim Hong-Ji/Reuters) (CBC file photos)

North Korea is a country that is known as a totalitarian state. This means that the government has a very high level of control over everything that happens in the country. The people in that country may face danger if they do not follow government rules and ways of thinking. North Korea has a big military, and puts a lot of energy into developing it. North Korea's neighbour, South Korea, is a very different country. South Korea has strong relationships with many countries, including the United States. North Korea has very few foreign relationships.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you know about North Korea? What do you know about South Korea?

What do you hear about North Korea in the news?

Do you worry about countries like North Korea? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions.
Answers are in the appendix.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	representative (n.)	a) an object that is thrown/shot as a weapon
_____	disturbing (v.)	b) a member of a group of violent criminals
_____	gangster (n.)	c) relating to a plan to achieve a goal
_____	nuclear (adj.)	d) a person who governs a country, area, or group
_____	ruler (n.)	e) use statements or threats someone to do something
_____	behave (v.)	f) a period of time associated with an event/person
_____	missile (n.)	g) someone who acts or speaks for a group
_____	era (n.)	h) related to nuclear energy (when atoms are split)
_____	strategic (adj.)	i) discussions to reach an agreement
_____	patience (n.)	j) bothering or upsetting
_____	pressure (v.)	k) staying calm when waiting or dealing with a problem
_____	negotiations (n.)	l) act properly

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

UN – United Nations

Korean peninsula – the piece of land where North Korea and South Korea sit

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3djj2k

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ North Korea's representative in the EU made a statement.
2. ____ The representative said the US is disturbing global peace.
3. ____ He said that nuclear war will definitely start on the Korean peninsula.
4. ____ Donald Trump said that North Korea's government should "behave."
5. ____ The statement came after North Korea ran a missile test.
6. ____ The missile test was not successful.
7. ____ US secretary Mike Pence also visited the Korean region.
8. ____ Pence said that the "era of strategic patience is open."
9. ____ The US wants China to pressure North Korea to end its military program.
10. ____ China wants to have negotiations.

Food for Thought

Which countries have nuclear weapons? Do you know of any?

Why does the US want North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program?

Are you afraid of nuclear technology? Why or why not?

News story #2 Criticism of Turkish election results (1:03)

Setting the Scene



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Burhan Ozbilici/Associated Press) (CBC file photo)

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has been the President of Turkey since 2014. He has many supporters in Turkey, and also many critics. His critics say that his government has too much control over the media, and limits people's access to social media. They also say that his government has put people in jail for unfair reasons and violated human rights. Erdoğan's government makes decisions that allow him more power than before. Many Turkish people protest this decision.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you know about Turkey? What do you know about Recep Tayyip Erdoğan?

In Canada, how are new laws created? Who chooses them?

In your home country, how are new laws created? Who chooses them?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

reforms (n.)	plans or changes (e.g., political) meant to improve something
rejecting (v.)	not accepting something, turning down a plan or suggestion
observers (n.)	experts who pay attention to something
margin (n.)	a measurement of difference
standards (n.)	processes or levels of quality that are acceptable
tampering (v.)	causing harm by changing something
operating (v.)	running or working
cancelled (v.)	decided that something will not happen

1. Mr. White got 45 votes and Ms. Black got 51 votes. Ms. Black won the election by a small _____ of six votes.
2. The Premier announced _____ to child car seat laws.
_____ (like safety experts) think these changes will make car travel safer for children.
3. He was caught _____ a business without the proper licenses and permits. The business closed and all his contracts had to be _____.
4. The doctors were _____ medical tools that seemed to have been opened. If someone has been _____ with tools, the doctors don't know if they're clean or safe. The doctors need to keep high _____ of cleanliness so that patients aren't in danger.

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

referendum – an event where people in a country vote on a law

'level playing field' – relating to a contest where everyone has the same resources or chances

opposition party – in politics, the party that holds the second-most seats in government

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3dijk9

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Turkey's president is going to pass reforms that would allow him to stay president for **ten months / ten years / two years** or more.
2. Erdoğan is getting criticism from people around the world about these new **powers / politics / parties**.
3. Erdoğan is rejecting the criticism from these **interested / intermediate / international** observers.
4. Erdoğan won the vote by a very **small / slight / scary** margin.
5. Observers say the election did not meet **usual / European / agreeable** standards.
6. They also say the two **votes / sorts / sides** were not operating in a fair and equal way.
7. One reason is because the **media / medicine / market** in Turkey is controlled by the government.
8. Turkey's main opposition party wants the voting **records / results / reforms** cancelled.

Food for thought

In Canada, what do people do if they don't agree with a government decision?

In your home country, what do people do if they don't agree with a government decision?

News story #3 Trump criticizes dairy trade deal (1:45)

Setting the Scene



Ottawa dairy farmer Peter Ruiter with his cows (CBC News) (CBC file photo)

American President Donald Trump has said that he wants Americans to protect their economy. This means buying American items in stores and hiring American people for jobs. The USA has many trade relationships with foreign countries, including Canada. Some Canadians are worried that the United States will start limiting how much commerce and trade happens between the countries. This could be a problem for Canada's economy.

Pre-listening Questions

What are the biggest parts of Canada's economy?

What items does Canada sell to other countries?

What are the biggest parts of the economy in your home country?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonym</u>
_____	audience (n.)	a) especially, mainly
_____	defend (v.)	b) supports, defends
_____	trade (n.)	c) suggested, recommended
_____	particularly (adv.)	d) growth, progress
_____	focusing (v.)	e) guard, keep safe
_____	protects (v.)	f) possible, reasonable
_____	monitoring (v.)	g) directing, concentrating
_____	developments (n.)	h) farming, crop production
_____	agriculture (n.)	i) listeners, crowd
_____	practical (adj.)	j) watching, following
_____	proposed (adj.)	k) business, commerce

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

taking aim – preparing to attack a target

spokesperson – a person who makes statements for another person, company, or group

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3djjzn

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Trump is taking aim at which country?
2. He said it's time to defend what type of agriculture workers?
3. What does he want to protect them from?
4. Trump is focusing on a system that benefits which group of people?
5. Who says they are monitoring the developments?
6. What is Oneill Carlier's job?
7. Will the government take a quick view of any proposed changes?
8. According to Carlier, whose interests will be protected?

Food for thought

If you were a farmer in Canada, would you be worried? Why or why not?

Do you think Trump's economic plan is a good one?

What are some risks with his plan?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	APRIL WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Ron Nicolson, and this is Learning English with the CBC for April 24 th , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	North Korea's representative at the UN says the US is disturbing global peace with gangster-like arguments. Kim In Ryong said the US has created a situation where nuclear war could start at any moment on the Korean peninsula. The comments came after US President Donald Trump said North Korea's ruler should "behave." That followed a North Korean missile test which failed, and the same day as his vice-president, Mike Pence visited the region. Pence was in the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea when he warned the "era of strategic patience is over." The US hopes China will pressure North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program. China is calling for a return to negotiations.	0:11
Story 2	Turkey's president says he's going ahead with reforms that could keep him in power for at least another ten years or more. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is rejecting criticism from international observers over a historic referendum that gives him new powers. He won the vote by a very small margin. The observers say the election did not meet European standards, and that there was vote-tampering. They also say the two sides were not operating on a level playing field, especially because of the media, which is controlled by the government. Turkey's main opposition party wants the results cancelled.	1:03
Story 3	US President Donald Trump is taking aim at Canada. He told an audience in Wisconsin that it's time to defend American dairy farmers against unfair trade deals, including those with Canada. Trump is particularly focusing on the system that protects Canadian dairy farmers. The Alberta government says it is monitoring the developments very closely. A spokesperson for Alberta's agriculture minister, Oneill Carlier, says the government will take a practical long-term view of any proposed changes, and make sure that Alberta's interests are protected.	1:45

Answer keys

News story 1 Tension between North Korea and USA (0:11)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
g	representative (n.)	a) an object that is thrown/shot as a weapon
i	disturbing (v.)	b) a member of a group of violent criminals
b	gangster (n.)	c) relating to a plan to achieve a goal
h	nuclear (adj.)	d) a person who governs a country, area, or group
d	ruler (n.)	e) use statements or threats someone to do something
l	behave (v.)	f) a period of time associated with an event/person
a	missile (n.)	g) someone who acts or speaks for a group
f	era (n.)	h) related to nuclear energy (when atoms are split)
c	strategic (adj.)	i) discussions to reach an agreement
k	patience (n.)	j) bothering or upsetting
e	pressure (v.)	k) staying calm when waiting or dealing with a problem
i	negotiations (n.)	l) act properly

Listening

1. **F** North Korea's representative in the EU made a statement.
2. **T** The representative said the US is disturbing global peace.
3. **F** He said that nuclear war will definitely start on the Korean peninsula.
4. **F** Donald Trump said that North Korea's government should "behave."
5. **T** The statement came after North Korea ran a missile test.
6. **T** The missile test was not successful.
7. **F** US secretary Mike Pence also visited the Korean region.
8. **F** Pence said that the "era of strategic patience is open."
9. **F** The US wants China to pressure North Korea to end its military program.
10. **T** China wants to have negotiations.

News story 2

Criticism of Turkish election results (1:03)

Vocabulary

1. Mr. White got 45 votes and Ms. Black got 51 votes. Ms. Black won the election by a small margin of six votes.
2. The Premier announced reforms to child car seat laws. Observers (like safety experts) think these changes will make car travel safer for children.
3. He was caught operating a business without the proper licenses and permits. The business closed and all his contracts had to be cancelled.
4. The doctors were rejecting medical tools that seemed to have been opened. If someone has been tampering with tools, the doctors don't know if they're clean or safe. The doctors need to keep high standards of cleanliness so that patients aren't in danger.

Listening

1. Turkey's president is going to pass reforms that would allow him to stay president for **ten months / ten years / two years** or more.
2. Erdoğan is getting criticism from people around the world about these new **powers / politics / parties**.
3. Erdoğan is rejecting the criticism from these **interested / intermediate / international** observers.
4. Erdoğan won the vote by a very **small / slight / scary** margin.
5. Observers say the election did not meet **usual / European / agreeable** standards.
6. They also say the two **votes / sorts / sides** were not operating in a fair and equal way.
7. One reason is because the **media / medicine / market** in Turkey is controlled by the government.
8. Turkey's main opposition party wants the voting **records / results / reforms** cancelled.

News story 3 Trump criticizes dairy trade deal (1:45)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonym</u>
i	audience (n.)	a) especially, mainly
e	defend (v.)	b) supports, defends
k	trade (n.)	c) suggested, recommended
a	particularly (adv.)	d) growth, progress
g	focusing (v.)	e) guard, keep safe
b	protects (v.)	f) possible, reasonable
j	monitoring (v.)	g) directing, concentrating
d	developments (n.)	h) farming, crop production
h	agriculture (n.)	i) listeners, crowd
f	practical (adj.)	j) watching, following
c	proposed (adj.)	k) business, commerce

Listening

1. Trump is taking aim at which country?
Canada
2. He said it's time to defend what type of agriculture workers?
dairy farmers
3. What does he want to protect them from?
unfair trade deals
4. Trump is focusing on a system that benefits which group of people?
Canadian dairy farmers
5. Who says they are monitoring the developments?
the Alberta government
6. What is Oneill Carlier's job?
spokesperson for Alberta's agriculture minister
7. Will the government take a quick view of any proposed changes?
no, they will take a practical long-term view
8. According to Carlier, whose interests will be protected?
Alberta's interest